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Executive Registry

8-0919

29 March 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director  
for Planning and Coordination

VIA : Deputy Director, Intelligence *Ref.*

FROM : Assistant Director for Central Reference

SUBJECT : Implementation of Killian Report, NSC Action  
1430: Specific Recommendation C.9

REFERENCE : Your memo, subject as above, 27 January 1956;  
LR 7-8081

1. Reference asks for a report by 1 April 1956 of progress on Specific Recommendation C.9 of the Killian Report, which reads as follows:

"The growing principles and technology of information retrieval will advance and may revolutionize the handling of large masses of intelligence data. Their application should be sought out more actively."

2. Active search for new equipment and techniques has been carried out by CIA in every year since the Agency was established, and the Intellofax equipment developed by CIA has been until recently the most efficient available for retrieval of documentary information contained in intelligence reports. The success achieved by this equipment, and the services which it performed for other agencies, were largely responsible for the IAC's decision in May of 1955 to establish a subcommittee which should "coordinate the development and implementation of compatible systems for documentation and processing of information within the intelligence community." This subcommittee, known as the Ad Hoc Committee on Information Processing, (short title AHIP), clearly has the responsibility of taking the leadership in the intelligence community's response to the recommendation of the Killian Report.

3. The AHIP committee, with a membership consisting entirely of intelligence officers from CIA, the IAC agencies, NSA, and USIA, decided in late 1955 that it would require more technical know-how than its members possessed in order to deal adequately with the search for new

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techniques and equipment. Accordingly it created a Working Group on Equipment Research whose members, derived from the same agencies as the parent committee, are specialists in fields of research and development akin to those which now are producing advanced equipment for information storage and retrieval. This Working Group will ensure that all agencies of the intelligence community are made aware of new equipment which may be of value, and that the possibilities of each new technical advance are thoroughly explored on behalf of the community.

4. Air Force and CIA are agreed that the Minicard System now being developed by Eastman Kodak shows more promise for the retrieval of information from large masses of intelligence data than does any other system now envisaged. Accordingly both Air Force and CIA expect to install Minicard equipment as soon as it becomes available. If the System proves itself successful in operation, the other agencies will consider whether or not they also should invest in it - unless, by that time, something even finer has appeared on the horizon.

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James M. Andrews

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